

3. (Amended) Microcapsules according to claim 1, wherein the microcapsules comprise at least one of alginate, acrylic, hydroxyethyl-methacrylate-methyl-methacrylate, polyphosphazene or agarose.

4. (Amended) Microcapsules according to claim 1, wherein the microcapsules contain an average of from 1 to 1×10^7 cells.

5. (Amended) Microcapsules according to claim 1, which are the microcapsules are substantially spherical microcapsules or substantially cylindrical microcapsules.

11. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising microcapsules according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

12. (Amended) A method of delivering microcapsules to a host comprising administering microcapsules according to claim 1.

13. (Amended) A method of treating a host suffering from a condition associated with deficient NO production, which method comprises administering ecdysone or an analog thereof to a host which harbours microcapsules as defined in claim 1.

14. (Amended) A product containing microcapsules according to claim 1 and ecdysone or an analog thereof as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of a condition associated with deficient NO production.

19. (Amended) A polynucleotide construct according to claim 15, wherein the promoter in part (a) comprises a minimal promoter and an element or elements which is/are responsive to ecdysone or an analog thereof.

20. (Amended) A polynucleotide construct according to claim 15, wherein two operator site sequences are present in part (b).

21. (Amended) A vector which incorporates a polynucleotide construct as defined in claim 15.

22. (Amended) A cell which harbours a polynucleotide construct according to claim 15.

23. (Amended) A cell according to claim 22 which harbours a construct, wherein the construct comprises a promoter operably linked to a coding sequence, wherein the promoter is responsive to ecdysone or an analog thereof and the coding sequence encodes a nitric oxide synthase (NOS) or a functional variant thereof; and which is capable of expressing a functional ecdysone receptor.

25. (Amended) A cell according to claim 22 which harbours a construct, wherein the construct comprises a promoter operably linked to one or more tetracycline operator site sequences and a coding sequence in that order, wherein the coding sequence encodes a nitric oxide synthase (NOS) or a functional variant thereof and which is capable of expressing the tetracycline repressor protein or a functional variant thereof.

26. (Amended) A process for preparing microcapsules comprising encapsulating cells according to claim 22.

Please cancel claims 8-10.